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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
3 December 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Developments in Countries on the Counter-insurgency List

1. South Vietnam

The Viet Cong continue to maintain military pressure on the new government through intensified harassing, terrorist, and sabotage operations. While the level of Viet Cong activity declined still further during the period 20-27 November from that of the week following the 1 November coup, it remained at approximately twice the level maintained during the first ten months of the year. In addition, the Viet Cong gained sufficient weapons in combat during November to equip nearly three regular battalions. We note that the Communist-sponsored National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam has called for sustained attacks on government forces. Improved Communist antiaircraft weapons employment and technique were again demonstrated on 24 November when 20 friendly aircraft were hit.

2. Laos

Right-wing and neutralist forces are continuing to exert pressure on enemy forces in northern and central Laos. Neutralist troops have cleared Pathet Lao forces from the Vang Vieng area and are pushing to the north along Route 13. Regular right-wing units, aided by Meo guerrillas, are persisting in their efforts to isolate Xieng Khouang Ville and regain recently lost positions to the north of the town. Farther south along Route 8, Phoumi forces have captured Kam Keut and are reportedly moving against Lak Sao, a village to the east.

State Department review completed

DIA review(s) completed.

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3. Bolivia

The Committee of Anti-imperialist Struggle (CLA), a small pro-Castro terrorist group which apparently intends to model itself after the Venezuelan terrorist organization, is in an early state of development in Bolivia.

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On 17 November, the Bolivian security service caught several members of the CLA as they were placing bombs near the homes of the US ambassador and the commanding general of the Bolivian Air Force. President Paz appears determined to move swiftly against the CLA.

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4. Colombia

A series of bombings and attempted bombings shook Bogota and other major cities during the last week of November. A large number of the bombs were aimed at US-owned installations, including a dud planted outside the home of the US naval mission chief. The bombings are in protest against Colombia's participation in Operation America, a joint naval exercise with the US, and reportedly are directed by Cuban-trained terrorists from Venezuela.

5. Dominican Republic

The government says its troops have isolated two bands of extreme leftist guerrillas in the mountains near the northern coast.

According to a 1 December communiqué, the government also claims to have captured some of the guerrillas, together with a stock of arms, supplies, and Communist literature. The communiqué names Manuel Tavares Justo, president of the pro-Castro 14th June Political Group (APCJ), and one of his lieutenants as commanders of the two groups, which total about 70 men.

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] US Embassy officials in Santo Domingo believe the guerrillas have been planning action for several months.

The incident has prompted the government to outlaw the APCJ, until now the only legal extreme leftist party in the country.

6. Guatemala

Guerrillas who have managed to survive in small pockets in the mountains of Guatemala for the past three years are becoming active again and are reported to be planning attacks on US properties. The US army attaché reports clashes during the last week of November in which the army may have killed as many as 40 guerrillas.

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7. Venezuela

Between 19 and 22 November terrorist activities reached a new peak of intensity.

The bulk of the attacks were on police and military installations and personnel; on political parties and their headquarters, candidates, and rallies; and on public communications and transportation facilities. Attacks on US-owned property have also been numerous. Among the targets of recent

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terrorist acts were Pan American Airways, UPI News Agency, Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola, DuPont Corporation, Firestone Tire Company, IBM Corporation, Colgate-Palmolive Company, General Electric Company, US-owned oil companies, gas stations, and supermarkets.

Since this intense outbreak of terrorism, the tempo of terrorist activity has subsided. However, the most spectacular terrorist acts have occurred since 22 November--the sending of packaged bombs to the chief presidential candidates and to a US Embassy officer, the hijacking of an Avenza airliner, and the kidnaping of Lt. Col. James K. Chenault, deputy chief of the US army mission.

Terrorism increased somewhat from 26 November through 28 November, but diminished unexpectedly on 29 November and on election day, 1 December.

Although the terrorists were unable to thwart the choosing of a new president, no great letup in terrorist activities can be expected between now and the inauguration on 2 March.

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